

Serial No.: 10/040,420
Amdt. Dated January 12, 2004.
Reply to Office Action of October 10, 2003

RD-28007-1

REMARKS

In the Office Action, mailed on October 10, 2003, claims 1-41 and 46-92 were rejected by the Examiner, and claims 42-45 were objected to, but were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, various deficiencies in the instant Application were cited by the Examiner which require correction by the Applicants. Thus, the Examiner noted that the invention disclosure statement filed January 2, 2002 cited the "Vandeginste reference" pages 535-553 of which were not received by the Patent Office. The Applicants will file forthwith a Supplemental Invention Disclosure Statement and provide the missing pages 535-553 of the Vandeginste reference. The Examiner further required that drawing corrections be proposed for Figure 1 and Figure 4. The Applicants propose to correct Figures 1 and 4 as suggested by the Examiner, replacing "shorter" with --larger-- in Figure 1 and replacing "108" with --118-- in Figure 4. Finally, the Examiner objected to the specification as containing an embedded hyperlink on page 19, paragraph 75. The Applicants have amended paragraph 75 to remove the "embedded hyperlink".

In this response, the Applicants have cancelled claims 1-29, 42 and 68-92 and have amended claim 30 to recite the limitations of claim 42. Claims 30-41 and 43-67 remain pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 42-45 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were held to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicants note that claims 31-67 depend directly or indirectly from claim 30. Claim 42 which was held to be allowable if rewritten in independent form depends directly from independent claim 30. The Applicants have therefore amended claim 30 to recite the limitations of claim 42 and have deleted claim 42 itself. Claims 30-41 and 43-67 should thus recite patentable subject matter. Especially in light of the amendment made to claim 30 the Applicants urge that the

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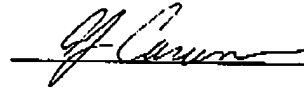
objections made to claims 43-45 be withdrawn, and that claims 30-41 and 43-67 recite patentable subject matter.

Other Claim Rejections

The Applicants urge that in light of the claim cancellations and amendment detailed above, the additional bases for rejection raised by the Examiner of their claimed invention are now moot.

In light of the foregoing arguments the Applicants submit that the case is now in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request such action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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